

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /099 W  
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R 201519Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 538

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

UNCLAS BELFAST 115

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT (UK, NI)

SUBJECT: NI CONSTITUTION BILL PASSED: NEW ASSEMBLY TO MEET  
JULY 31

1. NI CONSTITUTION BILL BECAME LAW ON JULY 18 1973 ABOLISHING  
THE NI PARLIAMENT AND PROVIDING THAT NI SHALL REMAIN PART OF  
THE UK, UNLESS THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN NI VOTE  
OTHERWISE IN A POLL HELD FOR THAT PURPOSE.

2. THE BILL PROVIDES NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR THE GOVERNING OF  
NI AND SETS OUT THE PROCEDURES FOR THE NEW ASSEMBLY, WHICH  
WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING ON JULY 31 IN THE CENTRAL HALL  
AT STORMONT CASTLE. THE MEMBERS WILL ELECT A PRESIDING  
OFFICER AT THIS MEETING AND THEN PROCEED TO DRAW UP STANDING  
ORDERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 25 OF THE ACT.

3. DURING THE PAST WEEK SECRETARY OF STATE WHITEHEAD MET WITH  
POLITICAL LEADERS TO DISCUSS THE CONTINUING CONTROVERSY  
CONCERNING CONTROL AND ACCEPTABILITY TO ALL SIDES OF THE  
COMMUNITY OF THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC). THE RUC  
DREW ADDITIONAL HEADLINES WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT CHIEF  
CONSTABLE SIR GRAHAM SHILLINGTON WOULD RESIGN ON OCTOBER 31  
1973 FOR PERSONAL REASONS. HIS RESIGNATION COMES AT ONE OF THE  
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MOST DIFFICULT TIMES OF RUC HISTORY AND THE SELECTION OF HIS

SUCCESSOR WILL BE A TEST FOR NI POWER SHARING STARTING AT A  
NATURAL BASE OF LAW AND ORDER.  
SINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BELFAS00115  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** willialc  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by willialc>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NI CONSTITUTION BILL PASSED: NEW ASSEMBLY TO MEET JULY 31  
**TAGS:** PINT, (UK, NI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005